

14 August 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Nick Veliotis, Assistant Secretary of State
for Near East and South Asian Affairs

In a meeting today with Ass't Sec. of State Veliotis we covered the following topics:

Iran

- Importance of our current estimate.

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- Why haven't the Soviets moved to set up an "independent" Azerbaijan republic?

Algeria

- The usefulness of an examination of Algeria's involvement with its African neighbors.
- The examination should include the implication for both parties of a major gas pipeline from Algeria through Morocco (to Spain).

Soviet Strategy in the Region

- The need here is for a broad perspective which distinguishes the systematic aspects of Soviet strategy from the opportunistic.

India-Soviet Union Relations

- The main question discussed is why the Indians remain aligned towards the Soviet Union despite their concerns about its closer presence in Afghanistan? Part of the answer seems to be that the Indians have a large stake in economic relations with the Soviets. Part of the answer may also lie in Indira Gandhi's attitude.

Fatah-Syrian Relations

-- There is evidence of a split. If so, has it influenced recent changes in Arafat's behavior?



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Henry S. Rowen
Chairman
National Intelligence Council

cc: AC/NIC
NIO/AL
NIO/NESA